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## Joint Statement on Veto of S.J. Res. 135

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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June 8, 1956

JOINT STATEMENT OF SENATORS JAMES E. MURRAY AND MIKE MANSFIELD AND REPRESENTATIVE  
LEE METCALF OF MONTANA ON THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF S. J. RES. 135.

The President's veto of the resolution to make a fair and reasonable settlement with the Crow Indians for the Yellowstone Dam site is bad news for Montana and especially for the Midland Empire. It is disappointing to Montana's Democratic delegation and to the people of Montana to see 12 years of hard work go down the drain.

Although regarded as a local matter, the Yellowstone resolution was a test of the Administration's willingness to deal fairly with its Indian wards and citizens, and also of the Administration's willingness to permit work to start on a power and irrigation dam for which there is a real need. The veto by President Eisenhower gives the Republican Administration a perfect record against starting any new multiple-purpose project during the many years it has been in office. It emphasizes the statement made by former President Harry Truman at the dedication of the Hungry Horse Dam in Montana, in October, 1952, when he said to the crowd assembled there, "Take a good long look at Hungry Horse, because if a Republican Administration comes in, it will be the last such project you will see for a long-long time."

It would appear that no truer words were ever spoken. Yellowstone Dam would have meant 200,000 kilowatts of power for Montana; it would have brought in new industry, broadened the tax base, furnished employment, and given more security to our people. It would have meant that the Crow Indian Tribe would have received a fair and equitable amount in accord with its wishes for this precious and one of the few great remaining dam sites in America.

Power supply for a considerable number of REA cooperatives in the Upper Missouri Basin in the years just ahead is, as a result of the President's action, largely nullified. These cooperatives could not be started until the first power from Yellowstone became available in the area. The start of the construction of Yellowstone Dam was vital to them. We Democrats deeply regret this blow to the Crow Indians, to the economic development of the Midland Empire, and to the State of Montana.

While the veto by President Eisenhower means that after 12 years of intensive effort, the Yellowstone Dam has been stymied, we shall of course do everything in our power to see if there are other avenues for speeding Yellowstone Dam construction. It is especially disappointing to the Montana Democratic delegation because we had just been informed that The Senate Public Works Committee had restored the \$10,850,000 and the prospects for immediate construction were so bright. President Eisenhower's action has, of course, thrown a road block against this much needed appropriation, as well.